

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

To allow Sinclair to do what they're doing on the eve of the most crucial election in several generations would be a dereliction of regulatory duty. At the very least, Sinclair should be required to air a balancing piece such as "Going Upriver" or "Fahrenheit 9/11" with a similarly favorable time slot.

Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Please take immediate action to hold Sinclair accountable for its violations of democratic principles and its partisan attempts to influence the election.

Thank you.